

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND
PERFORMANCE
NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 10609 – URBAN WATER
USE EFFICIENCY.

DISCUSSION

2018 Legislation (Senate Bill 606 [Hertzberg] and Assembly Bill 1668 [Friedman]) enacted in support of “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life” included provisions for advancing urban water use efficiency through developing and implementing various water use efficiency standards, variances for unique uses of water, and commercial, industrial, and institutional performance measures, among other requirements. On September 29, 2022, the Department of Water Resources [submitted the required recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board](#), pursuant to California Water Code Section 10609.

POLICY ISSUE

The Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life legislation charged the Department of Water Resources with developing regulations and charged the State Water Board with adopting a regulation. This information item will summarize the Department’s recommendations for long-term urban water use efficiency. The Department recommended:

- Standards for outdoor residential use that incorporate the principles of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) adopted by DWR.
- Standards for outdoor irrigation of landscape areas with dedicated irrigation meters, or other means of calculating outdoor irrigation use in connection with commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) water use, that incorporate the principles of the MWELO adopted by DWR.
- Performance measures for CII water use:
 - Recommendations for a CII water use classification system for California that address significant uses of water.
 - Recommendations for setting minimum size thresholds for converting mixed commercial, industrial, and institutional meters to dedicated irrigation meters (DIMs) and evaluation of, and recommendations for, technologies that could be used in lieu of requiring DIMs.
 - Recommendations for CII water use best management practices (BMPs), which may include, but are not limited to, water audits and water

management plans for those CII customers that exceed a recommended size, volume of water use, or other threshold.

- Appropriate variances for unique uses that can have a material effect on an urban retail water supplier's Urban Water Use Objective (UWUO) and threshold of significance for each recommended variance.
- Guidelines and methodologies for the State Water Board to adopt that identify how an urban retail water supplier calculates its UWUO.

FISCAL IMPACT

No action will be taken at the meeting.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. Information item only.